

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MEMA OFFERS WATER CONSERVATION TIPS**

With generally dry weather continuing across the state, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is offering tips to help conserve water resources.

“There are a number of simple measures we can all take to reduce water usage in our homes,” said MEMA Director Stephen J. McGrail.

Here are some steps you can take to help conserve water around the house:

- Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when they are fully loaded
- Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator – that eliminates the need to run tap water to cool it off
- Put plastic bottles in your toilet tank – Fill them with water and put them in the tank, safely away from operating mechanisms. In an average home, the bottles may displace and save ten or more gallons of water a day.
- Check for leaks in faucets, toilets, pipes, hoses and couplings – they can often be repaired with only an inexpensive washer
- Check for leaks by “zero-reading” your water meter – Check your meter before and after a half-hour (or longer) period when no water is being used. If your meter registers water use, you have a leak.
- Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors
- Water your lawn only when it needs it – Lawns only need to be watered every 5 to 7 days in the summer. To prevent water loss through evaporation, water your lawn during the cooler parts of the day – in the early morning or shortly before sunset.
- If you have a swimming pool, get a cover. The loss of water by evaporation will be cut by 90 percent

Above all, carefully follow any water restrictions that may have been issued in your local community.